

*thella's* foodplants as "hawthorn, pear, apple, etc."; we cannot therefore tell his position regarding rowan. Ford (1949) gave rowan, but may have been only echoing Tutt. The issue was further complicated when *oxyacanthella* was split, losing its apple- and pear-feeding element to a separate species called *S. aëneella* Hein. (Brown, 1964). We are not told to which species the rowan-feeding insects are assigned. Hering (1957, p. 1012) does not include either *oxyacanthella* or *aëneella* among the leaf-miners on *Sorbus*, but offers another species called *oxysorbi* Skala, saying that further investigation is needed to decide whether it is distinct from *oxyacanthella* or *aëneella*.

Before we go any further with this problem, let us take a look at *aucupariae*. The mine of this species appears to have an exceptionally variable frass-line. In some cases it forms a thin central thread; all the examples I found in the west of Ireland were of this type, and I wondered if I had *nylandriella* until the imago proved otherwise. In other instances the frass is deposited in a broad belt of separate grains; in others again it is in zigzag arcs. Borkowski (1969) also records this variability and adds that from mines with the characters of *oxysorbi* (reddish frass dispersed in arcs) he has bred typical *aucupariae*; he is therefore of the opinion that *oxysorbi* is a synonym for *aucupariae*.

So now we come back to *oxyacanthella*. On the evidence I have given, I do not think we can continue to number rowan amongst its foodplants. The probability is that collectors have quite understandably been led astray by the variability of *aucupariae's* mine. In one of its forms it closely resembles that of *oxyacanthella*, and the larvae, too, are similar. I have been unable to find any specimens of *oxyacanthella* bred from mountain ash in the collections at the British Museum (Natural History).

The localities given by Tutt for *aucupariae* lie north of a line from Hereford to the Wash. Waters (1929) added Oxford, and Meyrick Surrey. I have found the mines not uncommonly at Keston and Westerham in Kent, and have a number of cocoons overwintering from the latter locality. This appears to be a new record for the county of Kent.

(To be continued)

BISTON BETULARIA L. AB. GRISEA SMITH IN KENT.—I took a male example of this peculiar grey form in the m.v. trap in my garden at West Wickham on 4th July. I am only aware that *grisea* has previously occurred in Cheshire, and there is a short series from there in the R.C.K. collection. S. Gordon Smith bred the holotype from Chester in 1938 (cf. *Ent. Rec.*, 66: 97). —J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT, 1 Hardcourts Close, West Wickham, Kent. 10.viii.1971.